

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Sands

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mrs. Eloise Harlan Cheatham on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Eloise Cheatham is one such estimable person who has served with probity for 37 years with the Maury County School System; and

WHEREAS, Eloise Cheatham graduated from Central High School in Columbia and pursued her Bachelor of Science Degree at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); subsequently, she earned both an M.Ed. and Education Specialist Degree at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cheatham's meritorious service to the youth of Maury County commenced in 1963 when she began teaching at J.R. Baker Elementary School; she quickly distinguished herself as an exemplary teacher and role model; and

WHEREAS, from 1980-2000, Mrs. Cheatham has dedicated her astute management skills at J.R. Baker Elementary School and shared her commitment to excellence as the school's principal; and

WHEREAS, her outstanding tenure as principal has been supported by her own time-honored philosophy: she strives to make schools a cooperative endeavor between administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, and the community by providing effective communicators, good listeners, and constructive leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cheatham upholds the high ideals of teamwork as a professional; she has stressed the importance of keeping the community informed as to the positive learning taking place in the schools, and finds it imperative to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, Eloise Cheatham is an active and important member of her profession, participating in such education organizations as the MCEA, TEA, NEA, the Tennessee Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and Delta Kappa Gamma; and

WHEREAS, she contributed her time and immeasurable talents as the MCEA Faculty Representative, MCEA Secretary and President-elect, in addition to her service as the TEA Representative, and President of the Maury County Association of Administrators and Supervisors, where she is now a valued member; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cheatham served with probity as President of the District Principals' Study Council and as the Maury County Representative to the Tennessee Principals' Study Council; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, she is a member of Leadership Maury, Charter President of the Maury Educators' Credit Union, the Chamber of Commerce, and is a former board member of the Maury County Mental Health Center Board, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady is a devout and valued member of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church where she serves as the Church Organist, Elder, and Sunday School Teacher; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Eloise Cheatham has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning respect and admiration; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cheatham shares love and companionship with her husband Larry; she is the proud parent of sons, Greg Dabney and wife Amy, and Harlan Dabney and wife Kimberly, daughters Lynn Dabney, and Carole Dabney Smith and husband Martin; she also has two stepsons, Scott Cheatham and Steve Cheatham and wife Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cheatham exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we commend Mrs. Eloise Cheatham for laudable service as a teacher and Principal at J.R. Baker Elementary School and honor her for her profound devotion to her students, fellow educators, and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, along with every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.